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Public Opinion

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Introduction:

Research has found that, among the greatest dangers for American political stability, is that politics in the minds and actions of the youth has become nothing more than a negative, uninteresting topic that typically lacks significant representation. Furthermore, some argue that part of increasing political interest is focused towards the global political arena. Additional findings suggest that US college students have turned dramatically more negative in their view of the political trajectory of the United States, due to a feeling of higher connectivity between one another and a lack of faith in traditional politics. When focusing on American college student views on American foreign policy, students were dissatisfied and skeptical. *We are assessing how these findings affect Hope College students' view of the Syrian Refugee Crisis.*

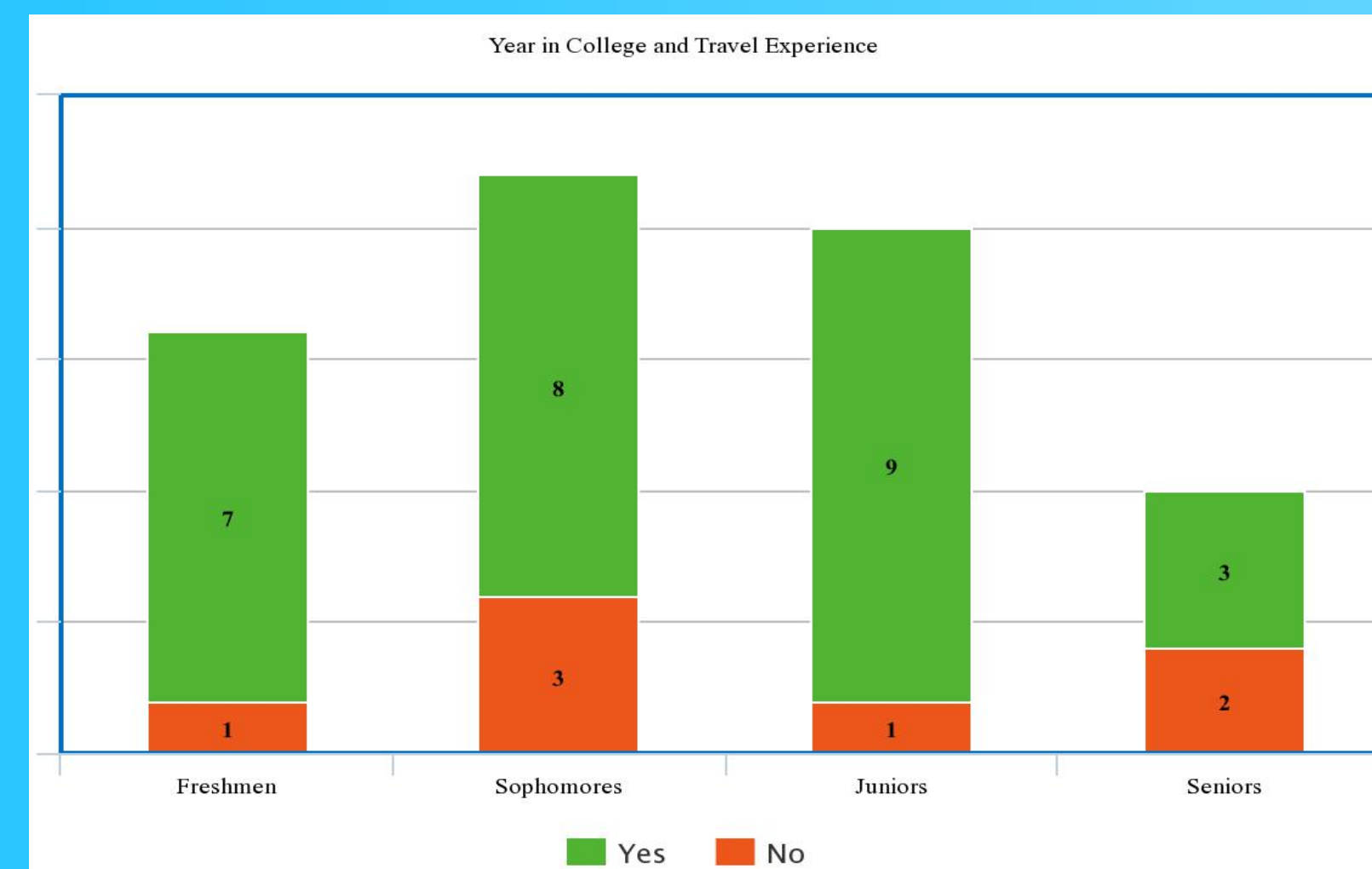
Findings:

- Largest percent of participation occurred amongst students 20 years and younger
- Fairly even levels of participation across grade levels
- Gender matters: women > men
 - Voting
 - Civic engagement
 - Social media political involvement
- Parental involvement matters
- Students are more likely to be politically active if they have felt pressure to be in the past

Perception of Syrian Refugees and Year In College:



Year In College and Travel Experience (Y/N):



* All charts constructed through data collection *

Methods:

- Data Collection
- 34 Hope College students
- Email distribution of poll questions to college students of varying ages, ethnicity, and gender.

Overall Student Beliefs on Syrian Refugee Crisis:

- On a scale from 1 (not informed) to 5 (very informed), 82.4% of respondents answered 3 or lower in regards to how informed they felt about the Syrian Refugee Crisis
- On a scale from 1 (not welcoming) to 5 (very welcoming), 41.2% of respondents answered 5 in regards to how welcoming they felt toward Syrian refugees
- Most respondents did not feel in any way threatened by immigrating Syrian refugees



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